

# MY SECRET STORY

No. 27

10c



I'LL THINK  
IT OVER...!



**BAD GIRL'S CONFESSION • MY HUSBAND HATED ME  
THEY CALLED ME A TWO-TIMER**

# Bad Girl's CONFESSION



MY NAME IS ROBERTA DAVE - BORN WITHOUT LOVE - HATED - SCORNE - REJECTED - THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ME IN ANYONE'S HEART - UNTIL ONE MAN OFFERED ME THE WRONG KIND OF LOVE.

THERE WERE SIX OF US CHILDREN. I WAS THE OLDEST FATHER WASN'T HOME MUCH, AND MY STEPMOTHER HAD ALL SHE COULD DO TO CARRY ON THE ENDLESS TASKS OF HOUSEHOLD DRUDGERY

ROBERTA! STOP MOONING AND GET THOSE DISHES DONE!...

YES, MOTHER.

ONE CHORE FOLLOWED ANOTHER. I NEVER REJECTED - THE ONLY THANKS I GOT WAS MORE ABUSE AT LAST I REBELLED....

I'M THROUGH! I'LL NEVER DO ANOTHER STITCH OF WORK AROUND HERE. NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME! SOB... SOB...

WHAT IN THE WORLD CAN WE DO WITH HER?

ISN'T THERE SOME SCHOOL THAT WILL TAKE HER?



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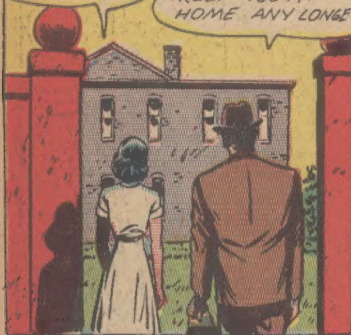


# MY SECRET STORY

I WAS FIFTEEN WHEN FATHER AND STEPMOTHER SENT ME AWAY TO A CHEAP BOARDING SCHOOL.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, FATHER?

IT'S A KIND OF BOARDING SCHOOL, ROBERTA. WE CAN'T KEEP YOU AT HOME ANY LONGER.



IT WAS A KIND OF BOARDING SCHOOL ALL RIGHT... THE KIND BAD GIRLS WERE SENT... GIRLS NOBODY WANTS.

PASS THE SALT, PLEASE.

QUIET, NO TALKING! AND I WON'T WARN YOU AGAIN, ROBERTA DAYE!!



DON'T CRY, ROBERTA! THEY WON'T KEEP YOU HERE AFTER YOU'RE EIGHTEEN.

THAT'S ALMOST THREE YEARS FROM NOW! I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG.



I WROTE LETTER AFTER LETTER TO MY FATHER, BEGGING HIM TO LET ME COME HOME. HE NEVER ANSWERED...

POOR CHILD. SHE'S NOT A BAD GIRL, REALLY. ALL SHE NEEDS IS SOMEONE TO LOVE HER AND BE NICE TO HER.



YOU MUST HURRY, ROBERTA. THERE'S A LOT TO DO!

I-I'll HURRY, MA'AM.



WORK WAS PART OF THE SCHOOL PROGRAM AT NIGHT. I WAS TOO TIRED TO BRUSH MY HAIR.

NOBODY LOVES ME... NOBODY CARES IF I LIVE OR DIE.



ONE DAY I FAINTED AND WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL.

WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR?

NOTHING THAT A LITTLE KINDNESS WON'T MEND. SEND FOR HER FATHER RIGHT AWAY.



YOU MUST LET ROBERTA LIVE AT HOME. SHE'S NOT WELL.

THAT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. NOTHING WILL COME OF IT BUT TROUBLE THERE ISN'T ROOM FOR HER AT HOME.

PLEASE, FATHER, LET ME COME HOME. I'LL BE GOOD.





# MY SECRET STORY

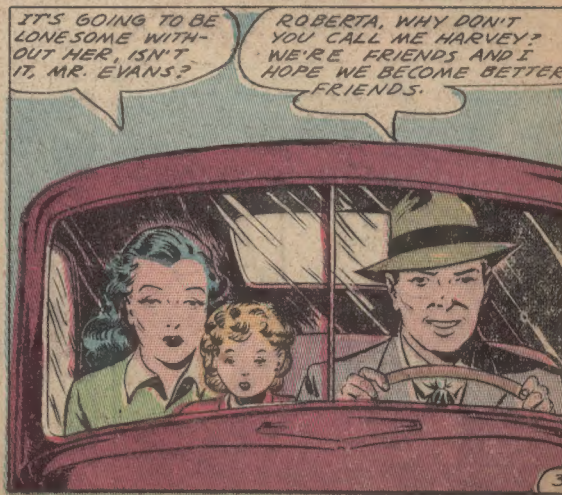
AND SO I RETURNED HOME. THINGS WERE WORSE THAN THEY HAD EVER BEEN. THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ME IN THEIR HOUSE--OR IN THEIR HEARTS...



MY FIRST JOB! COMPARED WITH THE BOARDING SCHOOL AND MY FATHER'S HOUSE, IT WAS HEAVEN. I LIVED IN A SWEET LITTLE CAPE COD COTTAGE WITH THE EVANS FAMILY.



I HAD A COZY LITTLE ROOM UP UNDER THE EAVES





# MY SECRET STORY

LITTLE DID I KNOW WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR ME. I WORKED VERY HARD TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION FOR THEIR TRUST IN ME...



YOU'RE KEEN COMPETITION FOR MRS. EVANS, ROBERTA. YOU'LL MAKE A FINE WIFE FOR SOME MAN, SOME DAY.

THANK YOU, HARVEY.

I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE STORM WARNING! I DIDN'T! THE NIGHT BEFORE MRS. EVANS WAS TO RETURN, I HEARD FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS.



WHO CAN THAT BE?



WHO'S THERE?

DON'T BE AFRAID, ROBERTA. THE BABY IS ILL. WILL YOU COME DOWNSTAIRS AND LOOK AT HER?

I HOPE IT'S NOT SERIOUS. OH, DEAR!



NOT SO FAST, ROBERTA.

MR. EVANS, SHE'S SLEEPING PEACEFULLY. I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH HER.

I-I, COULDN'T HELP IT. I WAS SO LONELY DOWN HERE, ROBERTA!

SUDDENLY HIS ARMS WERE AROUND ME. I STRUGGLED AND DIDN'T HEAR THE OUTSIDE DOOR OPENING...



MR. EVANS! PLEASE! LET ME GO!

WELL! JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? IT'S A GOOD THING I RETURNED EARLY!

HER WORDS FROZE MY MIND AND HEART...

I TRUSTED YOU, ROBERTA, AND AS SOON AS MY BACK IS TURNED YOU DO THIS TO ME! YOU'RE A BAD GIRL! NOW, GET OUT!

THERE IS NOTHING TO EXPLAIN, ROBERTA. PACK YOUR SUITCASE AND GO.



BUT, MRS. EVANS- I CAN EXPLAIN...



# MY SECRET STORY

ALL RIGHT, I'LL LEAVE RIGHT THIS MINUTE. SOB. SOB.

SHE HATES ME AND WILL NEVER BELIEVE THE TRUE STORY. OH, IF ONLY ONE PERSON WOULD LOVE ME AND TRUST ME.

I PACKED MY SHABBY SUITCASE, ONCE MORE I WAS WITHOUT A HOME. I KNEW I COULDN'T RETURN TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE SO LATE AT NIGHT, SO I WALKED THE STREETS UNTIL MORNING.

OH, I HOPE HE TAKES ME BACK. I'LL PROMISE TO GET A BETTER COAT.

ROBERTA'S BACK!

WHAT DO YOU WANT AROUND HERE?

WE'RE GOING TO BE HUNGRY AGAIN!

YOUR FATHER WENT AND LEFT US! HE'S LIVING IN A ROOMING HOUSE UPTOWN. YOU CAN'T COME BACK HERE! GO AND LIVE WITH HIM!

I TOOK A BUS UPTOWN. I WAS TIRED WHEN I REACHED MY FATHER'S NEW ADDRESS.

HELLO, DAD. MAY I COME IN?

SO YOU'RE BACK AGAIN. YES, COME IN!

I'LL TRY TO HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN, ROBERTA. BUT I CAN'T DO MUCH. BESIDES, YOU'RE ALMOST GROWN UP, YOU KNOW.

YES, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. I'LL TRY TO GET A JOB.

NO ONE WANTS ME!

AFTER A FEW DAYS MY FATHER FOUND A PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE. IT WAS GRAHAM HALL, A RESIDENCE FOR WOMEN. HE SAID I WOULD MEET SOME NICE GIRLS THERE.

GRAHAM HALL  
A RESIDENCE FOR WOMEN

BE A GOOD GIRL, ROBERTA. DON'T GET IN TROUBLE.

YES, DAD, BUT I'LL BE LONELY HERE. I LIKE TO HAVE A REAL HOME.

THE GIRLS AT GRAHAM HALL WERE NICE ENOUGH, BUT THE THINGS THAT WERE PART OF THEIR LIVES -- DATES AND PARTIES -- I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT. I MADE ONE FRIEND, THOUGH. HER NAME WAS ANNETTE.

I'D LIKE TO BE YOUR FRIEND, ROBERTA. YOU SEEM SO LONELY.

REALLY? I'VE NEVER HAD A REAL FRIEND. PLEASE COME IN.



# MY SECRET STORY

SHE HELPED ME FIND A JOB AS A RECEPTIONIST IN THE FIRM WHERE SHE WORKED.

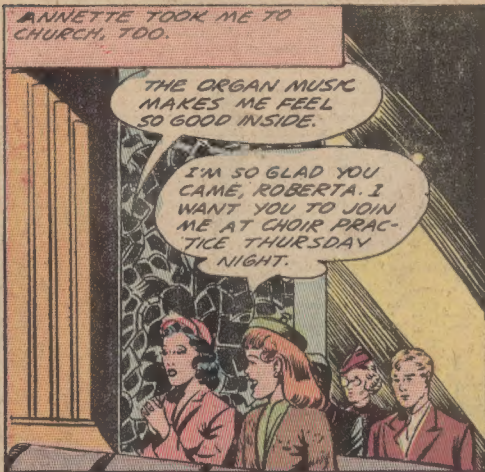
MR. BASCOM? JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE. I'LL SEE IF HE'S IN.



ANNETTE TOOK ME TO CHURCH, TOO.

THE ORGAN MUSIC MAKES ME FEEL SO GOOD INSIDE.

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME, ROBERTA. I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME AT CHOIR PRACTICE THURSDAY NIGHT.



AT ANNETTE'S URGING I JOINED THE CHOIR. AT FIRST I WENT ONLY BECAUSE SHE ASKED ME TO. I WAS SURPRISED WHEN THEY TOLD ME I HAD A LOVELY VOICE. LATER I FOUND THAT I DID LIKE TO SING.

IT WAS AT CHOIR PRACTICE ONE NIGHT, DURING AN INTERMISSION, THAT JERRY CAME INTO MY LIFE.

WHO'S THAT NEW GIRL WITH THE SAD EYES AND HEAVENLY VOICE?

SHE'S ANNETTE'S FRIEND. YOU CAN MEET HER.



ROBERTA DAYE, THIS IS JERRY MILLS.

HOW DO YOU DO? YOU'RE NEW HERE AREN'T YOU?

HOW DO YOU DO? YES, ANNETTE BROUGHT ME.



THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME TAKE YOU HOME.

SEE YOU NEXT THURSDAY AT CHOIR PRACTICE GOOD NIGHT, JERRY.



ON SATURDAY HE CALLED TO ASK IF I'D GO TO THE MOVIES WITH HIM. I WAS SO FLUSTERED I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. NO ONE HAD EVER ASKED ME ON A DATE BEFORE.

WHY - I - I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

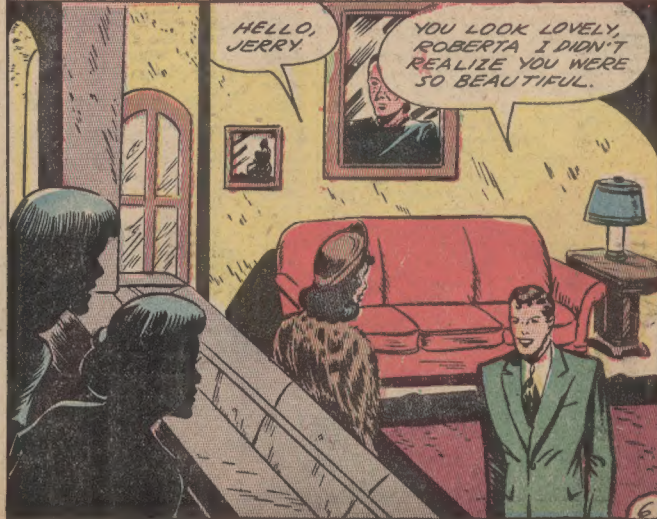
SAY YES! FOR GOODNESS SAKE, SAY YES!



ALL THE GIRLS LENT ME SOMETHING TO WEAR. I FELT LIKE CINDERELLA.

HELLO, JERRY.

YOU LOOK LOVELY, ROBERTA. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL.



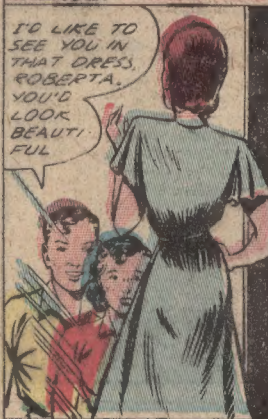


# MY SECRET STORY

ONE DATE LED TO ANOTHER SPRING WAS IN THE AIR AND LOVE BLENDED IN OUR HEARTS



THERE WERE CARE-FREE EVENINGS WHEN WE WENT WINDOW SHOPPING ALONG THE AVENUE.



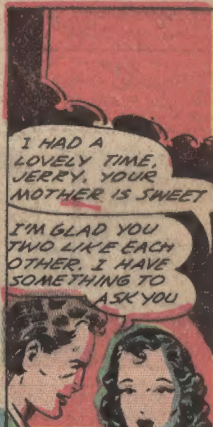
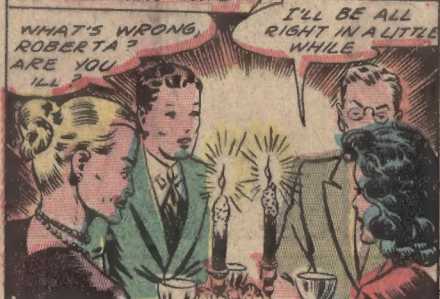
THERE WERE INTIMATE DINNERS BY CANDLE LIGHT, AND DANCING IN QUIET OUT-OF-THE-WAY NIGHT SPOTS.



WHEN CAME THE DAY I MET HIS MOTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IT CAME TO ME HOW UTTERLY FOOLISH I HAD BEEN TO DREAM OF BEING JERRY'S WIFE



ALL THROUGH DINNER I WAS MISERABLE. SUPPOSE I WERE TO TAKE JERRY TO MEET MY FAMILY WHAT WOULD HE THINK ABOUT MY STAY AT THE BOARDING SCHOOL - OR ABOUT MRS EVANS THROWING ME OUT OF HER HOME?



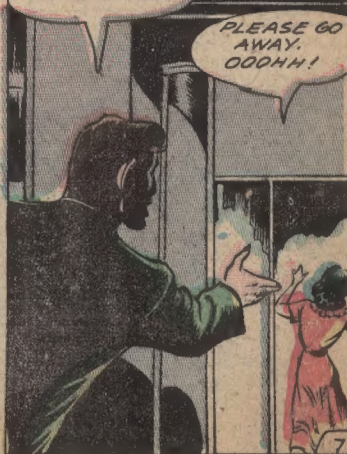
AT THAT MOMENT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. JERRY, THE MAN OF MY DREAMS WAS ASKING ME TO BE HIS WIFE



YOU'RE SO SWEET I WANT YOU I NEED YOU I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU



ROBERTA, COME BACK!





# MY SECRET STORY

HOW I LONGED FOR SOMEONE TO TALK TO. NOW I WISHED FOR AN UNDERSTANDING FATHER, A LOVE-FILLED HOME. ANNETTE TRIED TO HELP ME...



TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED, DEAR.

I-I... JUST-- CAN'T, ANNETTE. IT'S TOO--TOO AWFUL!

I DIDN'T GO TO CHURCH FOR FEAR OF SEEING JERRY. HE CALLED ME AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT THE GIRLS TOLD HIM I WAS OUT.



TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE YOU MET OUR DEAR BOY.

THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY NIGHT, I SAT AT THE WINDOW WATCHING THE GIRLS GO OFF WITH THEIR DATES...



ALL SET, PRINCESS?

LET'S GO, SIR GALAHAD.

WHEN I WANDERED DOWN THE DESERTED CORRIDORS, I SAW DIANA GRAY'S DOOR OPEN. SHE WAS THE WEALTHIEST GIRL IN THE HOUSE.



I'D JUST LIKE TO TOUCH THEM.

IT WAS A FAIRY WONDERLAND! THERE WERE DINNER DRESSES, GOLDEN SLIPPERS THAT JUST FIT MY FEET, GLITTERING JEWELRY...



IF ONLY JERRY COULD SEE ME NOW.

SUDDENLY THERE WERE QUICK FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS, RUNNING FEET IN THE HALL. PANIC STRICKEN I DUCKED INTO THE CLOSET. I HEARD THE DOOR BURST OPEN. IT WAS DIANA!



MY BRACELET! MY EARRINGS! THEY WERE HERE WHEN I LEFT AN HOUR AGO!

SHE RAN OUT OF THE ROOM SHOUTING, "MISS STEVENS, I'VE BEEN ROBBED!" I RAN INTO MY OWN ROOM AND LOCKED THE DOOR. THEN I REALIZED I HAD ON THE EARRINGS AND BRACELET--AND DIANA'S GOWN! I TORE THEM OFF AND HID THEM IN THE WASTEBASKET. I STUFFED THE GOWN INTO MY LAUNDRY BAG. THEN THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

THE CHECKOUT SHOWS YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL LEFT IN THE HOUSE, ROBERTA. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING?



NO, I'VE BEEN ASLEEP.



# MY SECRET STORY

WITHIN A HALF HOUR, THE HOUSE WAS FULL OF DETECTIVES. I HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN THE BORROWED THINGS.

HERE'S PART OF THE STUFF, ALONG WITH 'IS.

OKAY, GIRLIE, COME ALONG WITH 'IS.

THIEF!

BUT-- I CAN EXPLAIN.

G'WAN, GIRLIE, SCRAM!

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME. SHE'S MY FRIEND. I'M GOING WITH HER!

THE FOLLOWING HOURS WERE A NIGHTMARE. ANNETTE CAME TO SEE ME AT THE CITY JAIL. I TOLD HER EVERYTHING-- ABOUT MY FAMILY, THE BOARDING SCHOOL, EVEN ABOUT THE EVANS INCIDENT.

YOU POOR GIRL. I UNDERSTAND.

I KNEW YOU WOULD. YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND!

MY STEPMOTHER DIDN'T COME TO SEE ME AT ALL. MY FATHER CAME ONCE.

HOW COULD YOU DISGRACE ME?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, DAD. PLEASE BELIEVE ME.

THEY TOLD ME JERRY HAD COME TO SEE ME, TOO, BUT I HAD LEFT WORD NOT TO LET HIM IN... THE DAY CAME WHEN I STOOD BEFORE THE JUDGE.

THIS IS A SERIOUS CHARGE. THE STOLEN GOODS FOUND IN YOUR POSSESSION ARE WORTH MORE THAN \$500. I AM SURE YOU ARE NOT REALLY A BAD GIRL, ROBERTA.

YOU'RE HER FATHER. WILL YOU TAKE HER HOME UNTIL WE DECIDE WHAT DISPOSITION CAN BE MADE OF THIS CASE?

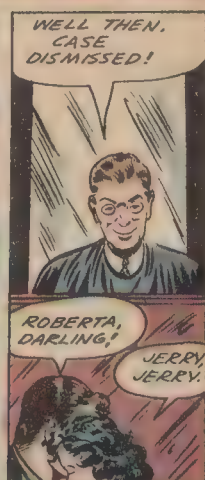
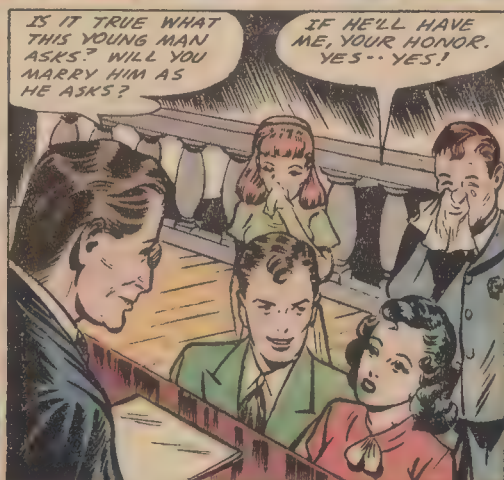
YOUR HONOR, I WAS NEVER ABLE TO HANDLE HER. YOU WILL HAVE TO DO WITH HER WHAT YOU THINK BEST.

THE HOUSEMOTHER OF GRAHAM HALL TELLS ME SHE CANNOT TAKE YOU BACK. YOUR OWN FATHER DOESN'T WANT YOU. I COULD SEND YOU TO THE STATE FARM FOR WOMEN, BUT YOU'LL COME IN CONTACT WITH HARDENED WOMEN THERE. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT AND I DON'T LIKE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU'LL BE WHEN YOU GET OUT, BUT...

...THERE IS NO CHOICE. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I CAN DO. I THEREFORE SENTENCE YOU...



# MY SECRET STORY





# MY HUSBAND HATED ME!

CAN'T YOU EVER  
DO ANYTHING RIGHT?  
YOU'RE NOTHING  
BUT A CLUMSY,  
STUPID, IDIOT!!!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
TO PLEASE YOU--  
I--I HATE  
YOU!!!

IT IS STRANGE THAT JUST WHEN  
I BELIEVED I HAD MY LIFE WELL  
ORGANIZED--- IT CRASHED INTO  
SHAMBLES!! I HAD EVERYTHING A  
WOMAN DREAMS ABOUT--A SUCCESS-  
FUL HUSBAND, A LOVELY DAUGHTER,  
AND A FINE HOME. THEN BECAUSE  
OF MY BLIND STUPIDITY AND ENDLESS  
NAGGING I WROUGHT CHAOS AND  
TRAGEDY OUT OF LOVE AND  
DEVOTION. MY HOME TURNED  
INTO A BATTLEGROUND FOR  
ANGRY WORDS AND HOT ACCUSA-  
TIONS. I, BETH STONE, WAS---  
-- A HATED WIFE !!

I LIKED MY JOB AS BOOKKEEPER IN MY  
FATHER'S SMALL FACTORY----

BETH, HOW WOULD  
YOU LIKE GOING WITH  
ME TO GRAND BEND  
NEXT WEEK? I HAVE  
SOME BUSINESS TO  
TAKE CARE OF AND  
YOU COULD HELP  
ME.

OF COURSE  
I'LL GO WITH  
YOU, DAD.

AFTER WE GET THE  
BUSINESS MATTERS  
ATTENDED TO WE'LL  
TAKE A SHORT  
VACATION. I'D LIKE  
TO CATCH UP ON  
MY GOLF.

THAT'S A  
WONDERFUL IDEA!  
YOU NEED SOME  
RELAXATION,  
DAD.



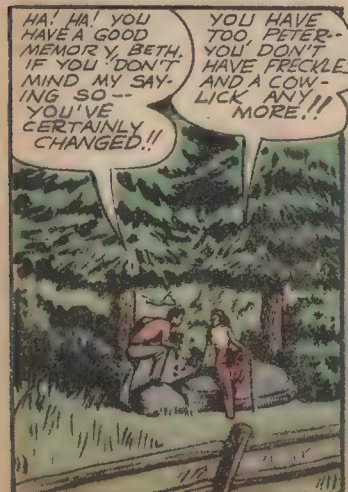
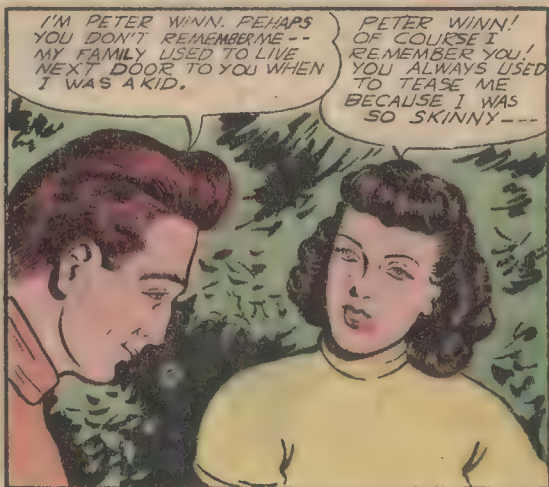
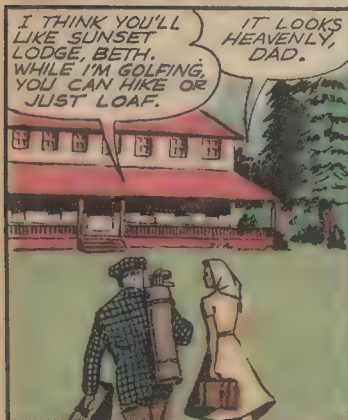
# MY SECRET STORY

DAD AND I WENT TO GRAND BEND, AND AFTER FOUR DAYS OF HARD WORK WE WERE READY FOR SOME FUN--

I CHANGED MY CLOTHES AND HEADED FOR THE TRAIL...

PARDON ME-- BUT ARE YOU BETH STONE?

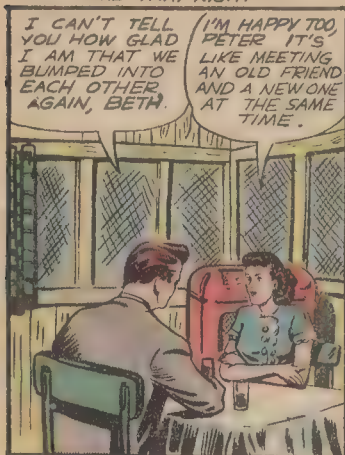
YES--I- IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY FATHER? WH--



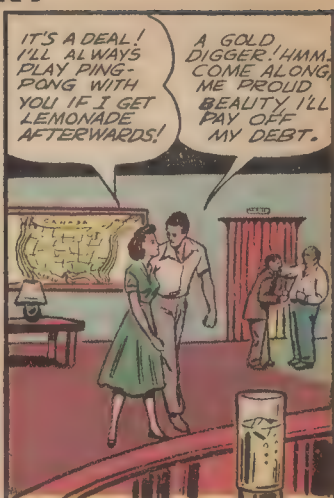


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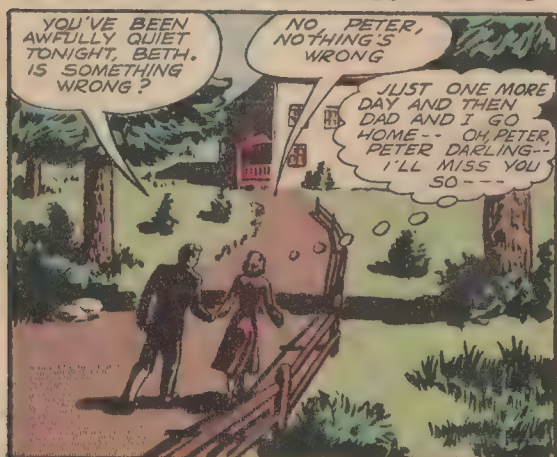
PETER AND I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME THAT NIGHT--



DURING THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED PETER AND I WERE TOGETHER CONSTANTLY.



ONE NIGHT WHEN PETER BROUGHT ME HOME--



DAD WAS THRILLED AT THE NEWS. I DIDN'T KNOW THEN THAT HIS WORDS WERE TO BE A MOCKERY IN MY EARS.

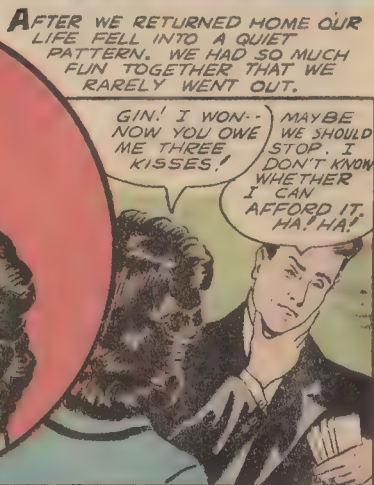
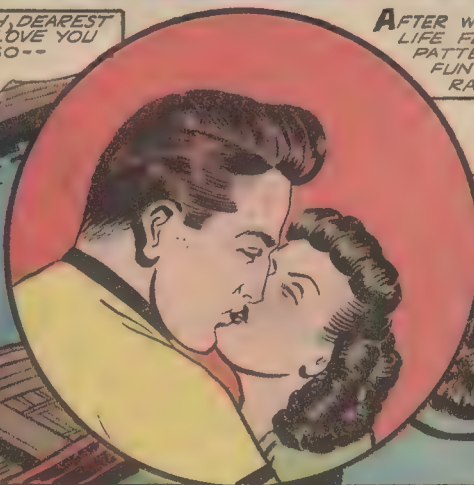
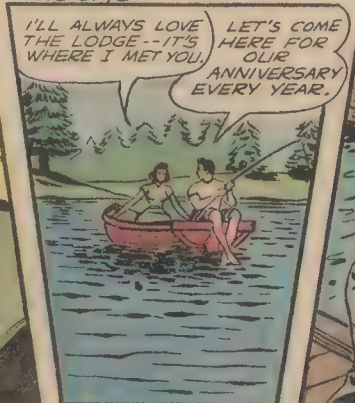
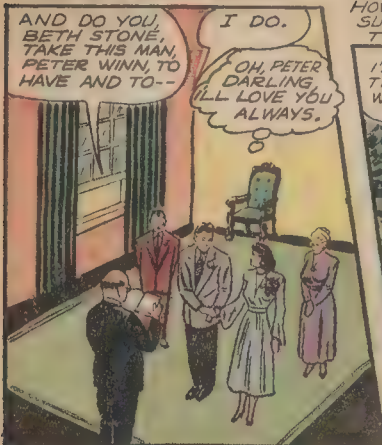




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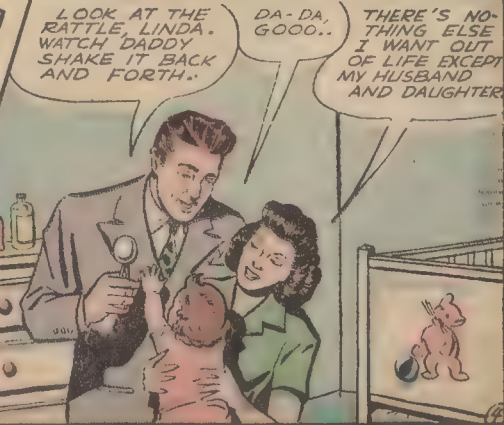
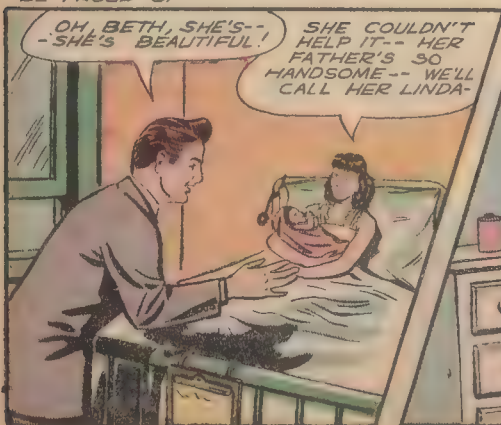
PETER AND I WERE QUIETLY MARRIED A MONTH LATER.

PETER'S LAW PRACTICE ALLOWED NO TIME FOR A LONG HONEYMOON. HOWEVER, WE DID RETURN TO SUNSET LODGE FOR A GLORIOUS TWO DAYS ---



WITHIN A YEAR PETER WAS FULL PARTNER IN THE LAW OFFICE OF LEWIS, LONDON AND WINN!! I, TOO, HAD SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF ---

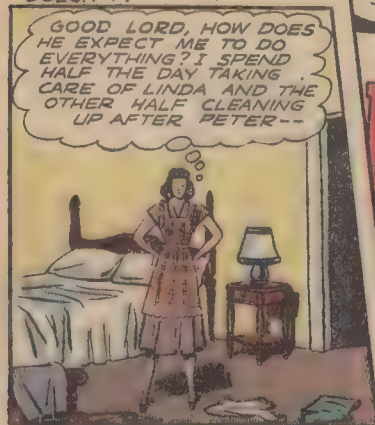
NOW, THE GOOD TIMES WHICH PETER AND I HAD TOGETHER INCLUDED OUR SMALL DAUGHTER ---





# MY SECRET STORY

MY STORY SHOULD READ, "AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER," BUT IT DOESN'T.



HI, DARLING! DINNER ALL READY? I'M STARVING!



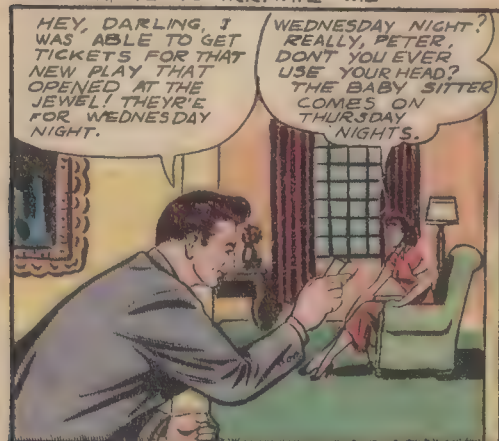
NO, DINNER IS NOT READY!! I'VE SPENT OVER AN HOUR JUST STRAIGHTENING UP THE MESSES YOU LEAVE ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

HOW ABOUT ME MAKING DINNER WHILE YOU FINISH UP HERE?



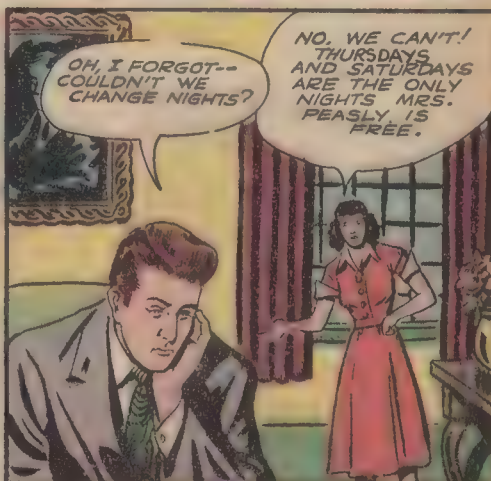
NO, THANK YOU, LAST TIME YOU MADE DINNER YOU BURNED THE POTATOES, BROKE TWO DISHES, AND GOT GREASE ALL OVER EVERY THING!

EVERY DAY PETER SEEMED TO DO SOMETHING TO IRRITATE ME--



HEY, DARLING, I WAS ABLE TO GET TICKETS FOR THAT NEW PLAY THAT OPENED AT THE JEWEL! THEY'RE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT? REALLY, PETER, DON'T YOU EVER USE YOUR HEAD? THE BABY SITTER COMES ON THURSDAY NIGHTS.



OH, I FORGOT-- COULDN'T WE CHANGE NIGHTS?

NO, WE CAN'T! THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS ARE THE ONLY NIGHTS MRS. PEASLEY IS FREE.



WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY ENTERTAINING FOR A LONG TIME. I THOUGHT PERHAPS I'D HAVE A FEW PEOPLE FOR DINNER NEXT WEEK.

ANYTHING YOU SAY, BETH.

I'LL MAKE A LIST-- THE MOORES, THE DUNNS, THE PEARSONS. MAKE SURE YOU ASK YOUR PARTNERS AND THEIR WIVES--

I'LL DO IT THE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING



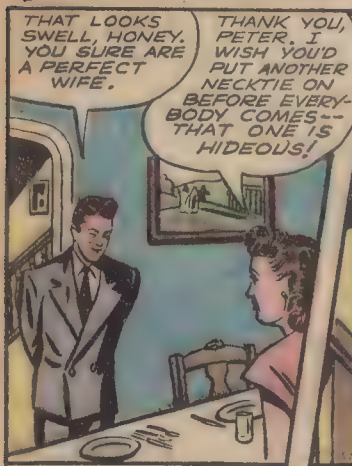
THE NEXT MORNING--  
YES, PETER I UNDERSTAND-- YOU HAVE TO GO OUT OF TOWN FOR THREE DAYS ON BUSINESS-- ALL RIGHT-- BEFORE YOU LEAVE DON'T FORGET TO INVITE MR. LEWIS AND MR. LONDON TO OUR DINNER!!

YES, DEAR, I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW--



# MY SECRET STORY

## THE NIGHT OF THE DINNER--



THAT LOOKS SWELL, HONEY. YOU SURE ARE A PERFECT WIFE.

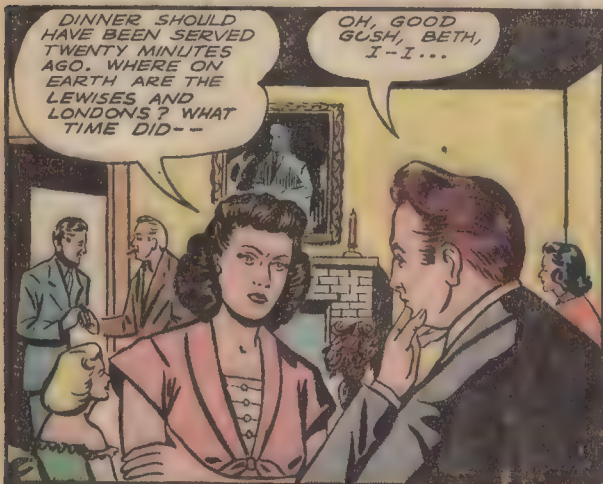
THANK YOU, PETER. I WISH YOU'D PUT ANOTHER NECKTIE ON BEFORE EVERYBODY COMES-- THAT ONE IS HIDEOUS!

I WAS TOO BUSY PREPARING DINNER TO CARE THAT PETER WAS HURT AND ANGRY!

NOW, LET'S SEE. THE DUNNS AND THE MOORES CAN SIT HERE-- THE LEWISES AND LONDONS HERE AND---

HI, BETH! WE DROVE OVER TOGETHER. I KNOW HOW YOU HOSTESSES LIKE TO HAVE DINNER ON TIME!

HELLO, EVERYBODY! COME ON IN. THE OTHERS WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.



DINNER SHOULD HAVE BEEN SERVED TWENTY MINUTES AGO. WHERE ON EARTH ARE THE LEWISES AND LONDONS? WHAT TIME DID--

OH, GOOD GUSH, BETH, I-I...

DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGET TO INVITE THEM!!! YOU BIG STUPID OAF!! CAN'T I DEPEND ON YOU FOR ANYTHING??

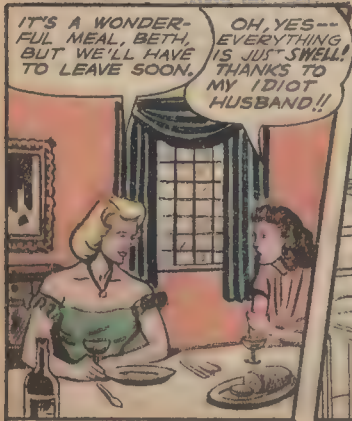
BETH, DARLING-- I'M SORRY-- BUT THE DAY I LEFT TOWN EVERYTHING WAS ALL MIXED UP AND I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE--

THE DINNER WASN'T MUCH OF A SUCCESS. I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO MAKE EVERYONE MISERABLE----

IT WAS SOON AFTER THAT PETER STARTED STAYING OUT LATE AT NIGHT--

NO, (SOB) DADDY LOVE'S US, HE (SOB) WOULDN'T--

SSSSSH, DARLING. GO TO SLEEP, NOW, LIKE A GOOD GIRL.

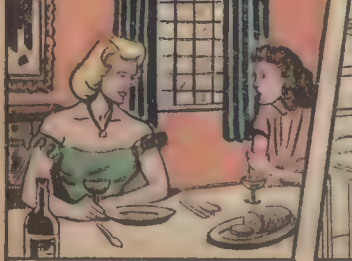


IT'S A WONDERFUL MEAL, BETH, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE SOON.

OH, YES-- EVERYTHING IS JUST SWELL! THANKS TO MY IDIOT HUSBAND!!

WHERE'S DADDY, MOMMY?

YOUR DADDY'S A SELFISH MAN, LINDA. HE'S MORE INTERESTED IN RUNNING AROUND THAN BEING WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER.





# MY SECRET STORY

THAT NIGHT WHEN PETER CAME HOME ---



IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'VE HAD TO WORK LATE EVERY NIGHT. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, PETER! WHERE HAVE YOU---

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE ARGUING, BETH-- AND I MEANT IT!!!



THE NIGHT OF PETER'S BIRTHDAY I MADE A SPECIAL CAKE AND PLANNED A BIG DINNER. I HOPED THAT HE WOULD COME HOME ---



PETER DIDN'T COME HOME THAT NIGHT FOR DINNER. IT WAS VERY LATE WHEN HE DID ARRIVE ---



MY WORLD CRASHED ABOUT ME WITH PETER'S NEXT WORDS ---



THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER I HAD COMPOSED MYSELF, I TRIED TO TALK CALMLY TO PETER ---

PETER LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING HASTY. WE HAVE LINDA'S WELFARE TO THINK ABOUT. IF WE COULD ONLY---

BETH, IT LOOKS HOPELESS TO ME. YOU DON'T WANT A HUSBAND. YOU JUST WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR ORDERS. YOU---



OH, PETER, PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE-- I PROMISE I'LL REFORM-- I WON'T NAG OR---

WELL-- ALL RIGHT, BETH-- BUT ONLY FOR LINDA'S SAKE. FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE NOT TO QUESTION ME AS TO WHERE I'VE BEEN OR WITH WHOM. WE'LL LIVE OUR LIVES SEPARATELY FROM NOW ON.





# MY SECRET STORY

PETER AND I WERE LIKE TWO STRANGERS LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE.



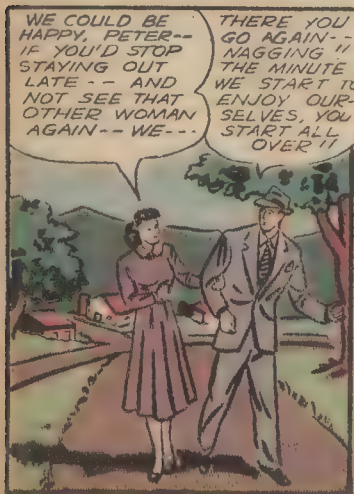
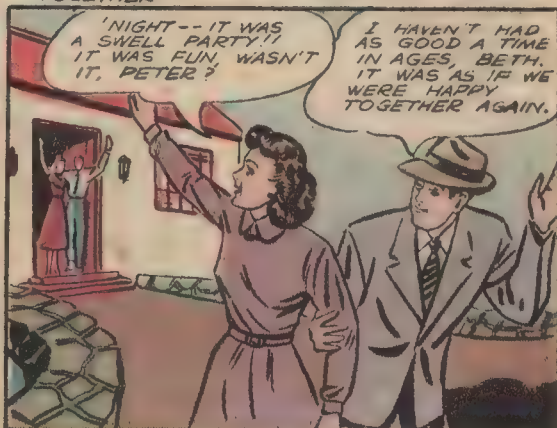
H--HE'S GOING OUT WITH THAT OTHER WOMAN. I'D LIKE TO GET HOLD OF HER AND--- BUT, I CAN'T! I PROMISED PETER WE'D LEAD OUR OWN LIVES. OH, PETER, PETER--



THEN ONE DAY A PROBLEM AROSE ---



THE PARTY AT THE MOORES WAS ALMOST LIKE OLD TIMES. PETER AND I HAD FUN TOGETHER --



I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER-- I HAD TO KNOW WHO SHE WAS!! THE NEXT NIGHT I FOLLOWED HIM---





# MY SECRET STORY

AS I WAITED FOR PETER'S RETURN THAT NIGHT, I WAS BLIND WITH FRUSTRATED RAGE AND HURT. IN MY ANGER, I PUT THE BLAME ON PETER RATHER THAN ON MYSELF--

WELL, YOU CAN STOP BEING SECRETIVE ABOUT YOUR NEW LOVE!! I KNOW WHO IT IS!! I SAW YOU AND BETTY HUNT STROLLING CASUALLY INTO THAT RESTAURANT TONIGHT!!!

WAIT A MINUTE, BETH. I HAD TO WORK LATE AND SO---

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF YOUR LIES -- OH, I'VE GOT TO THINK---

BETH, YOU'RE BEING UNFAIR, I--

IT'S ALL HIS FAULT-- I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING -- OH, THERE YOU ARE!!



ALMOST WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE I WAS GOING, I FOUND MYSELF AT BETTY HUNT'S APARTMENT.

I--I'VE GOT TO SEE HER-- MAYBE I CAN--

YES, WHO IS-- OH, IT'S YOU MRS. WINN.



PLEASE LET ME COME IN. I--I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU.

OF COURSE, MRS. WINN. YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME.



I--I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEGIN-- BUT, AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, I'M HERE ABOUT MY HUSBAND.

YOUR HUSBAND? I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND. I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND MY HUSBAND. I'VE COME TO PLEAD WITH YOU TO LET HIM GO. I--I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT HIM--

JUST A MINUTE MRS. WINN, YOU'RE ALL MIXED UP.



THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN YOUR HUSBAND AND MYSELF-- THERE NEVER HAS BEEN. DON'T GET ME WRONG -- I'D LIKE TO TAKE HIM FROM YOU-- YOU DON'T DESERVE HIM!!!

BUT-- BUT--





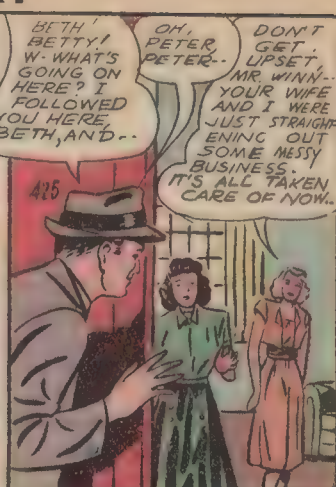
# MY SECRET STORY



YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING TO DRIVE HIM AWAY-- TO MAKE HIM MISERABLE! YOU NAG ABOUT EVERYTHING! YOU EMBARRASS HIM IN FRONT OF HIS FRIENDS--

I KNOW-- OH, (SOB) HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME.

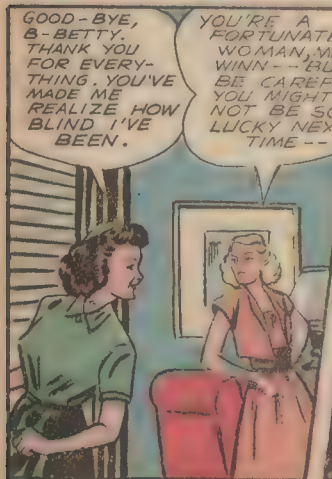
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO TAKE PETER AWAY FROM YOU-- BUT HE'S ONE OF THOSE ONE WOMAN MEN-- HE STILL LOVES YOU, YOU LITTLE FOOL--



OH, IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE, HE'LL NEVER.

BETH! BETTY! W-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I FOLLOWED YOU HERE, BETH, AND--

OH, PETER, PETER-- DON'T GET UPSET, MR. WINN-- YOUR WIFE AND I WERE JUST STRAIGHTENING OUT SOME MESSY BUSINESS. IT'S ALL TAKEN CARE OF NOW.



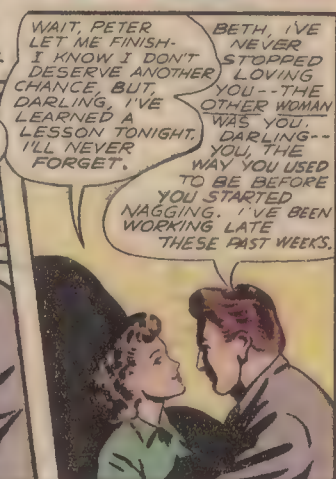
GOOD-BYE, B-BETTY. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. YOU'VE MADE ME REALIZE HOW BLIND I'VE BEEN.

YOU'RE A FORTUNATE WOMAN, MRS. WINN-- BUT BE CAREFUL, YOU MIGHT NOT BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME--

PETER AND I WERE BOTH TOO BUSY WITH OUR OWN THOUGHTS TO TALK UNTIL WE REACHED HOME.

PETER, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME? OH, DARLING, NOW THAT I'VE FACED THE TRUTH, I KNOW EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED HAS BEEN MY FAULT.

BETH, I--



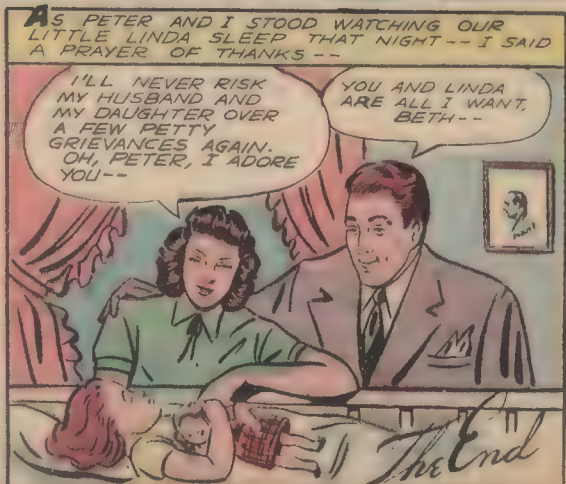
WAIT, PETER. LET ME FINISH-- I KNOW I DON'T DESERVE ANOTHER CHANCE, BUT, DARLING, I'VE LEARNED A LESSON TONIGHT. I'LL NEVER FORGET.

BETH, I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU-- THE OTHER WOMAN WAS YOU. DARLING-- YOU, THE WAY YOU USED TO BE BEFORE YOU STARTED NAGGING. I'VE BEEN WORKING LATE THESE PAST WEEKS.



I'LL NEVER BE THAT OTHER NAGGING, MEAN, BETH AGAIN. OH, PETER, NEVER LET ME GO--

NEVER, MY BELOVED, NEVER!



AS PETER AND I STOOD WATCHING OUR LITTLE LINDA SLEEP THAT NIGHT-- I SAID A PRAYER OF THANKS--

I'LL NEVER RISK MY HUSBAND AND MY DAUGHTER OVER A FEW PETTY GRIEVANCES AGAIN. OH, PETER, I ADORE YOU--

YOU AND LINDA ARE ALL I WANT, BETH--

The End



# Heart's Desire

Do you have a love problem? Why not ask NAN DALTON to help you? Just drop a card or letter to: Nan Dalton, My Secret Story, Suite 721, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Miss Dalton:

I was engaged for a year and last night I gave back my ring. We had a very silly quarrel about finances. I think we should spend a little money while we're engaged, and my fiance thought we should save every penny. Maybe he's right. I cried all night, Miss Dalton. Do you think I should call him and apologize? I'd save every penny if he'd take me back.

D. G.  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear D. G.

If you love this man, call him immediately. Quarrels over money are foolish. Naturally, he had you in mind when he wanted to save every penny. However, I don't think you should stop your social life entirely. If you talk this over, I'm sure you can make some arrangements whereby you can spend a little and save a lot.



Dear Miss Dalton:

I have been going steady for a year. During that time, my boy friend and I have broken up twelve times. Yes, it was about every month. He'd come to me and say he wanted to take out other girls. Then in a week or so he'd return and we'd go steady again. I haven't even looked at another fellow in all that time. I love him very much, but now I'm wondering if I am right to take him back all the time. What do you think,

O. E.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear O. E.

I think your boy friend is not ready to settle down with one girl. You should accept other dates, too, until you feel he is sure he wants to be your steady. Too many girls make the mistake of tying themselves down to one boy for a year or more, only to find themselves out in the cold.



Dear Miss Dalton:

I met a man a few months ago and I love him.

He's from a neighboring town and drives in to see me twice a week. I've been wondering lately about our dates. We never go to his home town and never go to nice places. It's always a darkened night club on the road. I've questioned him about this, but he only laughs. What am I to think, Miss Dalton?

Y. L.  
Paterson, N. J.

Dear Y. L.

From your letter, I think he doesn't want to be seen with you. Either he's engaged or married. If possible, find out more about this man before you accept another date. Either go to his home town, or try to find out from a friend in his town. Remember, it is never wise to accept a date from a man you know nothing about.



Dear Miss Dalton:

I'm not bragging but I must say I am very popular. I've had four proposals so far and I'm only eighteen years old. Not one of the men I've met appeals to me at all. I want to get married and have decided now to accept the very next person who proposes to me. I don't want to wait until I'm too old to get married. Do you think I'm right, Miss Dalton?

T. R.  
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear T. R.

You are wrong, T. R. Don't be afraid of being an old maid. A girl as popular as you are will soon meet the man of her dreams. Many girls accept proposals without love — and soon find their marriages on the rocks. Wait for your true love. Don't take the next man who proposes to you unless you love him.



Dear Miss Dalton:

I read in stories about engaged girls receiving  
(Continued on next page)



## HEART'S DESIRE

*presents from their fiancées. Also, most of my girl friends get presents from men. To date, Pat hasn't given me one thing. He says he'll buy me an engagement ring soon but I don't believe him. Don't you think he should give me something if he really loves me?*

C. N.  
Denver, Colorado

Dear C. N.

Most people in love give each other presents. It is a natural heart-warming act. The presents do not have to be expensive, if the giving comes from the heart. Yes, I think Pat should give you flowers now and then, a box of candy, or some bauble you desire. Have you ever given him a present? Why not try it? It may wake him up!

Dear Miss Dalton:

*I'm engaged to be married but see my fiancé only twice a week. When I ask him what he does other nights, he tells me to mind my own business. This hurts me very much, because I think engaged couples should see one another more often. Do you think he is dating other girls? That's what my girl friends think. I need advice, Miss Dalton. Please tell me if I should break my engagement or not.*

P. A.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear P. A.

There is something wrong with a man who tells the girl he loves to mind her own business. The least he could do is tell you what he does five nights out of seven. If he won't tell you now, I'm afraid you'll be a lonely bride. People don't change much with marriage.

I'd like to answer every letter sent to me, but it's impossible. There isn't time or space in this column. If you don't receive an answer, keep on reading this column. In the near future, you'll find a problem similar to your own. *Don't forget to write!*

—Nan Dalton

## FOR GIRLS ONLY!



### "Are You In Love?"

You might repeat over and over, "I love you," but the words have no meaning if actions belie the words.

To test yourself and really know if you're in love, ask yourself the following questions.

When you think of the future, is the man you love in your thoughts? Or do you think mostly of yourself? If he isn't part of your plans for the future, it's not love. Real love is unselfish.

When you're on a date, do you always think of him? Do you ask where he'd like to go, and question him during the evening to find out if he is having a good time. Again, if you're thinking only of your own pleasure, you're definitely not in love. Another thing about those dates. Do you wander off with someone else and leave him for hours at a time? It's permissible, of course, but first you must be concerned about his happiness. Couples in love think of the other's happiness first.

No one can escape arguments. They happen to the best of us. Sometimes we say and do things we do not mean. In the heat of our anger, we're really not responsible. But—do you make up as quickly as possible? Do you apologize and realize that you've hurt the man you love? If you don't, you may be sure you don't love him. Pride or stubbornness do not go hand in hand with love.

Do you want to do a lot for the man you love—give him gifts, and your time when he needs you? Or do you let him do all the giving and say you're too busy to help him in some way?

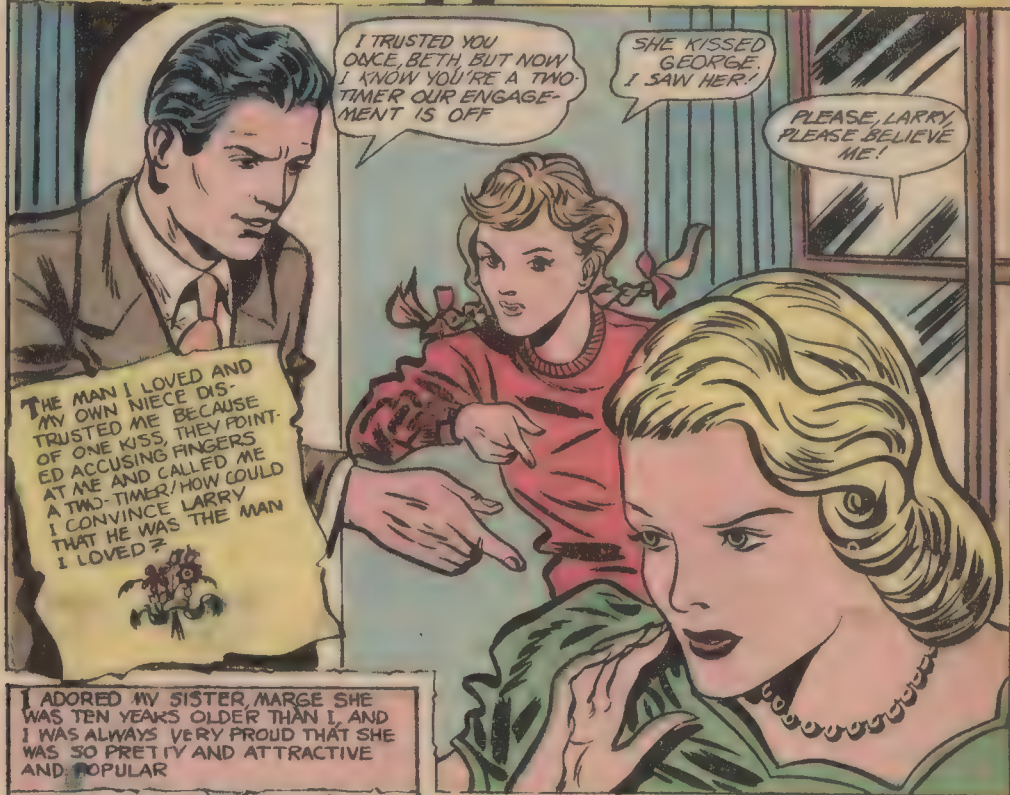
Actions speak louder than words, girls. Give yourself the test of love if you want to be sure you're in love.

If you readers have any tips you'd like to pass on to others, send them to me. I'll be happy to publish them.

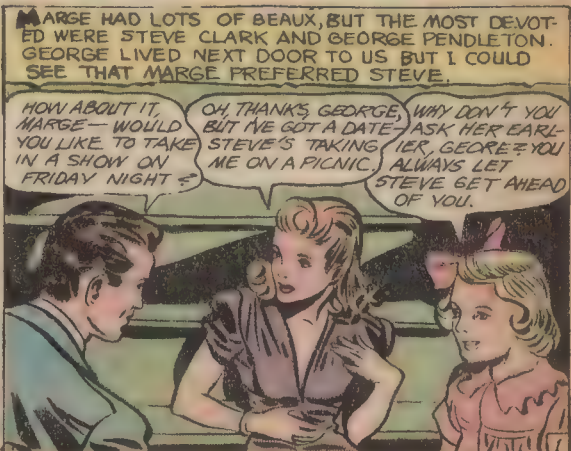
—Nan Dalton



# They called me a TWO-TIMER



I ADORED MY SISTER MARGE SHE WAS TEN YEARS OLDER THAN I, AND I WAS ALWAYS VERY PROUD THAT SHE WAS SO PRETTY AND ATTRACTIVE AND POPULAR

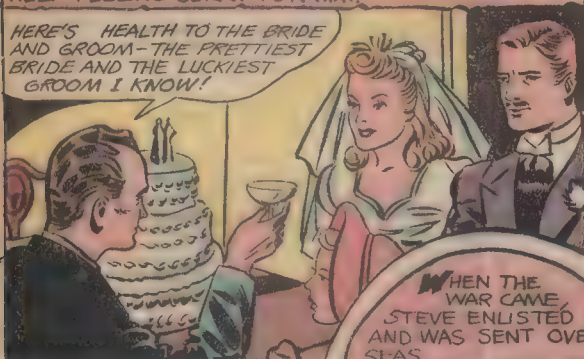




# MY SECRET STORY

MY SISTER, MARGE, AND STEVE WERE MARRIED. GEORGE, ANOTHER SUITOR, WAS VERY GAY, BUT I COULDN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR HIM.

HERE'S HEALTH TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM—THE PRETTIEST BRIDE AND THE LUCKIEST GROOM I KNOW!



WHEN THE WAR CAME, STEVE ENLISTED AND WAS SENT OVERSEAS.

MARGE AND STEVE WERE VERY HAPPY, ESPECIALLY AFTER PEGGY WAS BORN.

I THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE STEVE, DON'T YOU, BETH?

I THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU, MARGE. I HOPE SHE'S JUST AS PRETTY AS YOU WHEN SHE GROWS UP.



A FEW YEARS LATER, DAD AND MOTHER WERE KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT AND I WENT TO LIVE WITH MARGE AND STEVE.

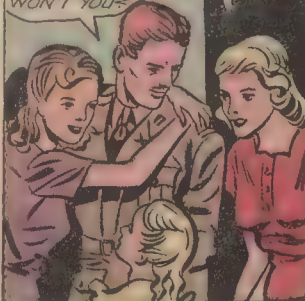
PEGGY WILL BE JUST LIKE YOUR LITTLE SISTER, BETH. IT WILL BE WONDERFUL FOR HER TO HAVE YOU HERE—STEVE AND I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY!

THANK YOU, MARGE DEAR!



TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES! AND, BETH—TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY UNTIL I COME BACK. WON'T YOU?

OF COURSE I WILL, STEVE! HURRY BACK!



I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO MARGE ANY LONGER, SO I TOOK A BUSINESS COURSE AND GOT A JOB AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

I'VE GOT A JOB, MARGE! I START WORK ON MONDAY—AND I'M GOING TO START ABOUT NOW, PAYING YOU FOR WELL YOU'VE MY ROOM AND DONE AT BUS-INESS SCHOOL.

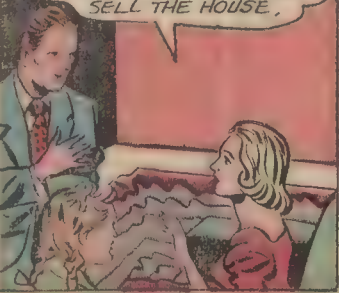


I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WHEN MARGE DIED, IF GEORGE HADN'T COME TO THE RESCUE.

YOU KNOW I ALWAYS THOUGHT EVERY-THING OF MARGE—AND ALL OF YOU! YOU MUST COME OUT TO MY PLACE AND MEET MY WIFE—STELLA WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU BOTH.

OH GEORGE, YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR US! I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE A BURDEN TO YOU, PEGGY.

AND I CAN MANAGE ALL RIGHT—ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU'VE HELPED US SELL THE HOUSE.



STEVE WAS KILLED OVERSEAS, AND MARGE WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT. THE NEXT WINTER SHE CAME DOWN WITH PNEUMONIA, AND I FELT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GET WELL.

YOU'LL LOOK AFTER PEGGY—WON'T YOU, BETH? YOU KNOW—GOING TO YOU PROMISED. GET WELL, STEVE. YOU'VE GOT TO!



WHY, BETH, THAT WASN'T ANY-THING. YOU KNOW I'M IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS AND NOW YOU TWO ARE COMING OUT TO STAY WITH US UNTIL YOU FIND A PLACE OF YOUR OWN!





# MY SECRET STORY

PEGGY AND I WENT WITH GEORGE AND MET STELLA FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR SISTER. I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND BEING IN THE SAME ROOM - BUT WE ONLY HAVE ONE GUEST ROOM. I KEEP TELLING GEORGE WE NEED A BIGGER HOUSE BUT HE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

OH, IT WILL BE WONDERFUL FOR PEGGY AND ME TO BE TOGETHER. AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING US IN.



THEY WERE BOTH VERY KIND TO US DURING THE WEEK WE STAYED THERE, BUT I NOTICED THAT STELLA WAS FULL OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT GEORGE.

I HOPE YOU FIND THE KIND OF PLACE YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF AND PEGGY. I ONLY WISH I COULD HELP YOU - BUT GEORGE KEEPS THE CAR FOR HIMSELF ALL THE TIME. I NEVER GET A CHANCE TO USE IT!

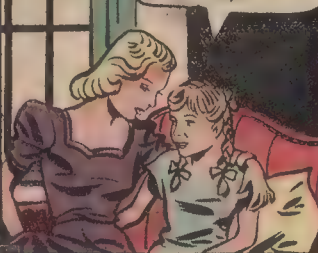
OH, I WOULDN'T THINK OF TROUBLE! YOU, STELLA, AND GEORGE HAS TO USE THE CAR IN HIS BUSINESS, DOESN'T HE?



I FOUND ROOMS FOR PEGGY AND MYSELF WITH A NICE WIDOW, MRS. GREEN, WHO PROMISED TO KEEP AN EYE ON PEGGY WHEN I WAS AT THE OFFICE.

YOU AND I ARE ON OUR OWN, PEGGY, BUT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE OUT ALL RIGHT. WE'LL BE A LITTLE FAMILY, JUST YOU AND I.

AND WE WON'T EVER LEAVE EACH OTHER, WILL WE, BETH?



NOT LONG AFTER THAT GEORGE TOLD ME THERE WAS AN OPENING FOR A SECRETARY IN HIS OFFICE, I WAS VERY HAPPY TO TAKE A JOB WITH HIM.

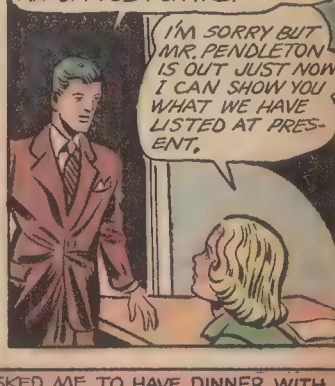
I WISH WE COULD PAY YOU MORE, BETH. OH, GEORGE, YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME - AND FOR PEGGY. I'LL DO MY VERY BEST.



ONE DAY WHEN GEORGE WAS OUT, A YOUNG MAN CAME TO SEE HIM ABOUT A BUSINESS LEASE FOR HIS FIRM.

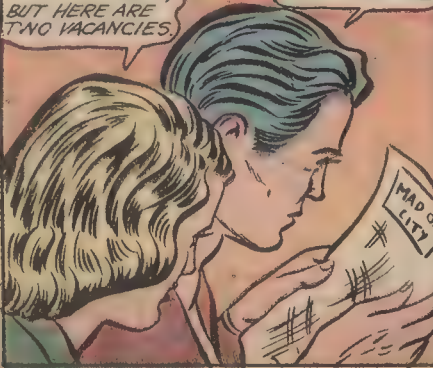
I'M LARRY PARKER FROM THE ACME COMPANY. MR. PENDLETON SAID HE'D FIND AN OFFICE FOR ME.

I'M SORRY BUT MR. PENDLETON IS OUT JUST NOW. I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT WE HAVE LISTED AT PRESENT.



SPACE IS HARD TO GET JUST NOW, BUT HERE ARE TWO VACANCIES.

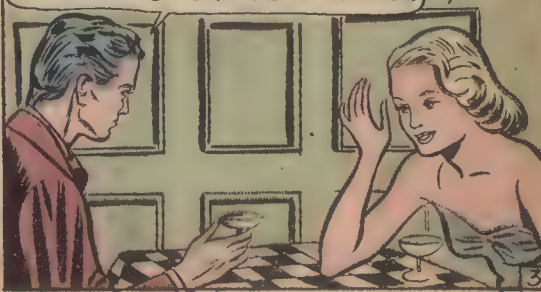
YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.



ONE DAY LARRY ASKED ME TO HAVE DINNER WITH HIM.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT HAS MEANT TO ME TO HAVE YOUR HELP - AND WHAT IT MEANS TO THINK I KNOW A GIRL LIKE YOU. I'D REALLY BEEN DREAMING MOVING HERE - BUT NOT ANY MORE. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT NOW.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIVING HERE? OH, I'M SO GLAD!



# MY SECRET STORY

I COULD SEE THAT GEORGE WAS WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING

YOU DESERVE A LOT OF CREDIT FOR THE GOOD WORK YOU DID WITH THE ACME CROWD, BETH BUT....

WHY, GEORGE WHAT'S WRONG?

I JUST NEVER CAN SATISFY STELLA. I TRY TO GIVE HER EVERYTHING I CAN.

OH, GEORGE, STELLA LOVES YOU. I KNOW IT!

IT WORRIED ME A BIT TO HAVE GEORGE SO DEPRESSED, BUT I FORGOT ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS VERY QUICKLY BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A DATE WITH LARRY THAT NIGHT.

GEE, YOU GO OUT WITH LARRY MORE THAN ANY OTHER MAN. DO YOU THINK HE'S CRAZY ABOUT YOU, BETH?

HE'S JUST MOVED HERE. HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW MANY OTHER GIRLS, PEGGY

SECRETLY I COULDN'T HELP WONDERING JUST HOW INTERESTED LARRY REALLY WAS.

HERE'S SOMETHING FOR MY LITTLE SWEETHEART. HOW ARE YOU, BETH?

OH, THANK YOU, LARRY! GEE, THIS IS WONDERFUL!

LARRY, YOU'RE SPOILING HER! YOU SHOULDN'T BRING PRESENTS EVERY TIME YOU COME.

WE SAID GOOD-BY TO PEGGY AND LEFT...

OH, AREN'T THEY LOVELY! THANK YOU, LARRY, I'M JUST CRAZY ABOUT FLOWERS—AND ROSES ARE MY FAVORITE.

THEN MY FAVORITE GIRL CERTAINLY MUST HAVE SOME.

WHEN HE TOOK ME HOME

IT WAS A WONDERFUL EVENING—AND THANK YOU FOR THE ROSES. I JUST LOVE THEM.

AND I JUST LOVE YOU, BETH.

JUST AS SOON AS YOU CAN FIND A PLACE FOR US TO LIVE, YOU CAN FORGET THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS, DARLING.

OH, BUT LARRY DEAREST, THERE'S PEGGY! I CAN'T MAKE ANY PLAN WITHOUT CONSIDERING HER! I PROMISED PEGGY I'D ALWAYS LOOK AFTER HER—AND I'M ALL SHE HAS!





# MY SECRET STORY

LARRY WAS VERY SWEET AND UNDERSTANDING AND INSISTED THAT PEGGY LIVE WITH US. I DECIDED TO TELL HER OF OUR ENGAGEMENT THE NEXT EVENING.

...AND SO WE'RE PLANNING TO BE MARRIED, PEGGY, AND YOU'RE TO COME AND LIVE WITH US. WE BOTH WANT YOU.



PEGGY'S REACTION SURPRISED AND PUZZLED ME.

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING ALL THIS FROM ME? WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO TREAT ME LIKE A BABY?

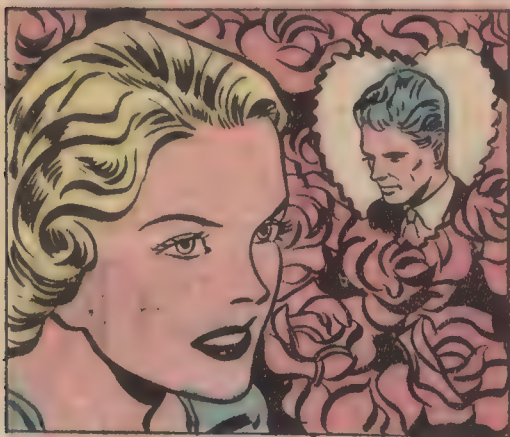


PEGGY DEAR, I DON'T TREAT YOU LIKE A BABY OR KEEP THINGS FROM YOU! YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE TOLD!

BUT PEGGY SHUT HERSELF IN HER ROOM AND WOULDN'T LET ME IN.

PEGGY WON'T YOU LET ME IN, DEAR?

NO! GO AWAY! PLEASE GO AWAY!



THE NEXT DAY I PLANNED TO TELL GEORGE ABOUT MY ENGAGEMENT, BUT I SAW THAT HE WAS UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.

STELLA'S LEAVING FOR FLORIDA THE END OF THE WEEK. I DIDN'T WANT HER TO GO.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO OUGHT TO GO TO FLORIDA, YOU NEED A REST, GEORGE.



THAT NITE I TOLD LARRY I COULDN'T LEAVE GEORGE BECAUSE HE REALLY NEEDED ME.

WHAT'S THE BIG OH, BUT DEAREST! IDEA ABOUT GEORGE? I OWE SO MUCH TO YOU! THINK I NEED YOU EVEN MORE? LET HIM FIND ANOTHER SECRETARY!



ON HIM NOW. JUST BE PATIENT FOR A FEW MONTHS.

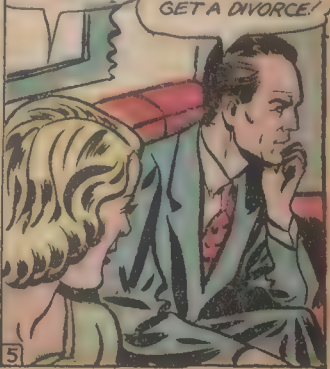
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST ON WAITING THREE MONTHS, BUT I DON'T SEE WHY ANY REAL ESTATE BUSINESS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR WEDDING... AND THREE MONTHS IS THE LIMIT. I WON'T HAVE YOU WORKING A DAY LONGER.



ONE EVENING A FEW WEEKS LATER GEORGE CAME AROUND.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GEORGE? HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED?

EVERYTHING, BETH! STELLA WANTS TO LEAVE ME AND GET A DIVORCE!



# MY SECRET STORY

IT STUNNED ME TO SEE GEORGE SO SHAKEN

SHE'S MET SOME MAN IN FLORIDA WHO'S BEEN GIVING HER A BIG RUSH HE'S GOT MONEY, AND HE'LL GIVE HER ANYTHING SHE WANTS... CARS, TRIPS, JEWELRY...

YOU MUST WRITE HER, GEORGE TELL HER YOU LOVE HER TOO MUCH TO GIVE HER UP! MAKE HER UNDERSTAND!



I'LL WRITE, BETH YOU'RE A WONDERFUL LITTLE FRIEND! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU

BUT YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A WONDERFUL FRIEND TO ME, YOU KNOW I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU THAT I COULD

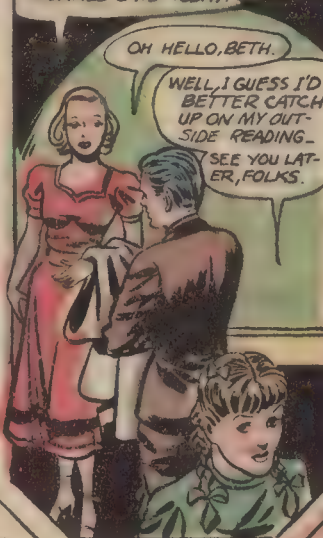


THAT NIGHT...

OH, DARLING, I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING, I WORKED LATE TODAY.

OH HELLO, BETH.

WELL, I GUESS I'D BETTER CATCH UP ON MY OUTSIDE READING... SEE YOU LATER, FOLKS.



THE NEXT MORNING...

WHAT DID GEORGE WANT LAST NIGHT? IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT HE COMES 'ROUND HERE TO SEE YOU

OH, HE JUST WANTED MY OPINION ABOUT SOME THING THAT HAD COME UP



LARRY'S MANNER PUZZLED ME, HE SEEMED SO STIFF AND UNLIKE HIMSELF

LARRY, DEAR, IS SOMETHING WORRYING YOU? WHAT IS IT?

I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THIS TERRIFIC DEVOTION OF YOURS TO YOUR JOB UNTIL NOW



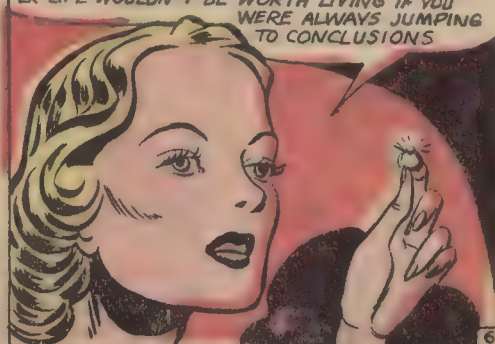
LARRY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT EVER PUT SUCH AN IDEA IN YOUR HEAD? YOU MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS.

YOU KNOW VERY WELL WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! YOU CAN'T DENY THAT GEORGE WAS HERE LAST EVENING HE WAS HERE, KISSING YOU! THAT'S NOT MY IMAGINATION AND YOU CAN'T DENY IT!



I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS LARRY TALKING TO ME THIS WAY AND I REALIZED THAT NOTHING I COULD SAY WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT

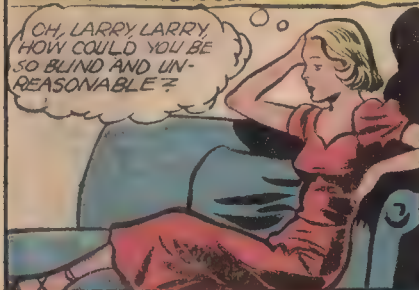
VERY WELL, LARRY, IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO GO ANY FURTHER LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH LIVING IF YOU WERE ALWAYS JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS





# MY SECRET STORY

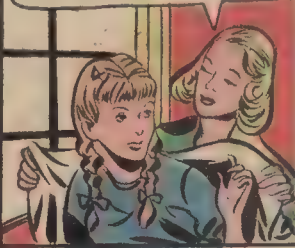
AFTER LARRY HAD LEFT I SAT THERE GOING OVER EVERYTHING IN MY MIND. IT MUST HAVE BEEN PEGGY WHO HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT GEORGE—AND IT DAWNED ON ME THAT SHE RESENTED THE ENGAGEMENT FAR MORE DEEPLY THAN I SUSPECTED. I WAS SICK AT HEART OVER LARRY'S ATTITUDE AND MY OWN HELPLESSNESS.



ALL I COULD DO WAS STAY BY MY JOB AND HOPE.

ARE YOU GOING OUT TONITE, BETH?

NO, I EXPECT TO BE HOME. AND IT'S ALL OFF BETWEEN LARRY AND ME—WE'VE CHANGED OUR MINDS.

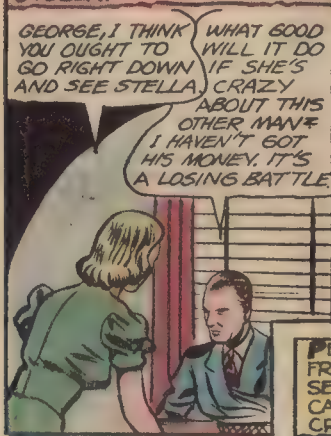


THEN YOU WON'T NO BE GETTING MARRIED AFTER ALL?

I WON'T BE GETTING MARRIED, PEGGY.



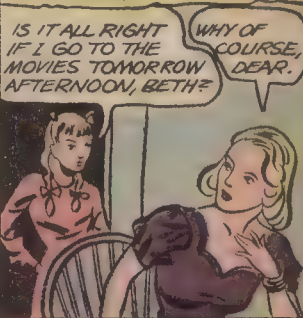
I TRIED TO FORGET MY TROUBLES AT THE OFFICE AND WHEN I HAD A CHANCE, I TALKED TO GEORGE ABOUT STELLA.



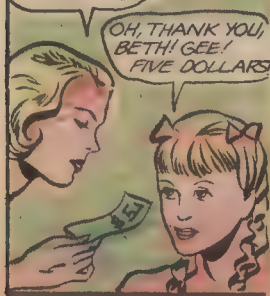
YOU CAN'T GIVE IN MEEKLY. FLY DOWN THERE AND SWEEP HER OFF HER FEET!



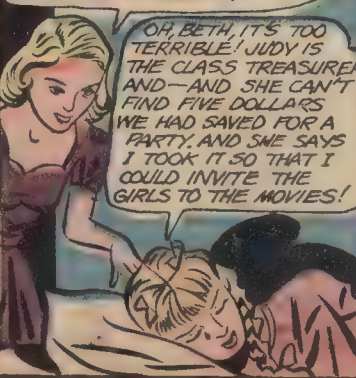
IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING FOR ME TO BE KEPT BUSY BECAUSE THE DAYS WERE VERY DEPRESSING WITHOUT LARRY.



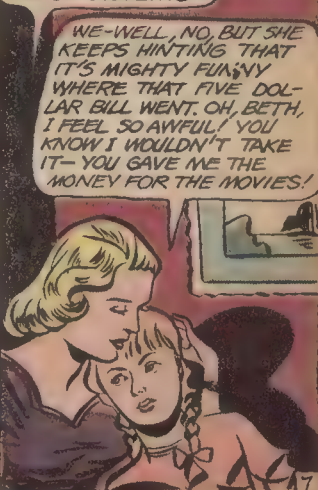
WHY DON'T YOU INVITE SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS TO GO WITH YOU? THERE ARE QUITE A FEW WHO HAVE ENTERTAINED YOU SINCE SCHOOL STARTED.



WHY, PEGGY, DID SOMETHING GO WRONG AT SCHOOL? TELL ME WHAT THE TROUBLE IS!



YOU MEAN SHE'S ACTUALLY ACCUSED YOU OF STEALING?



# MY SECRET STORY

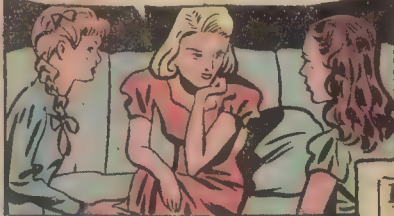
PEGGY, YOU BRING JUDY HOME FROM SCHOOL TO-MORROW, I'LL BE HOME EARLY. NOTHING HURTS WORSE THAN BEING UNJUSTLY ACCUSED, AND I CAN'T HAVE YOU UPSET ABOUT THIS.

OH, THANK YOU, BETH!



HURRIED HOME THAT NEXT DAY TO FIND THE TWO GIRLS WAITING FOR ME.

JUDY, I UNDERSTAND YOU CAN'T FIND FIVE DOLLARS OF THE CLASS DUES. PEGGY IS VERY HURT BECAUSE SOMEONE HINTED SHE KNEW WHERE IT WAS. I KNOW THAT THE ONLY FIVE DOLLAR BILL SHE HAD IS ONE I GAVE HER MYSELF TO TAKE SOME OF YOU TO THE MOVIES. CAN'T YOU REMEMBER JUST WHAT YOU DID WITH THAT MONEY?



WELL, YOU SEE, I HAD THE MONEY IN MY DESK—THE BELL RANG—SO I GRABBED UP MY BOOKS AND RAN. PEGGY WAS STILL IN THE ROOM WHEN I LEFT—EVERYONE ELSE HAD GONE.



YOU'RE SURE YOU DIDN'T PUT IT IN YOUR POCKET?

WELL, I'M PRETTY SURE I DON'T THINK IT'S IN MY COAT BUT YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF—IT'S THE ONE I'M WEARING TODAY.



YOU CAN SEE THERE'S NOTHING IN THE POCKETS EXCEPT AN ERASER AND SOME GUM AND—OH, I OUGHT I HAD SOME GUM THERE BUT IT'S GONE. IT MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT.

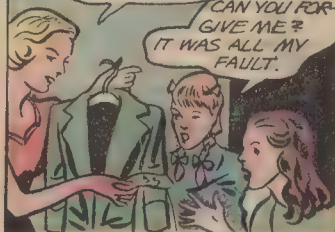
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF LOOKING IN THE LINING OF YOUR COAT? PERHAPS THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR POCKET!



I SLIPPED MY HAND INSIDE THE POCKET AND SURE ENOUGH THERE WAS A HOLE IN THE LINING.

YOU SEE, JUDY! YOU PROBABLY FORGOT AND CRAMMED IT INTO YOUR POCKET WHEN THE BELL RANG.

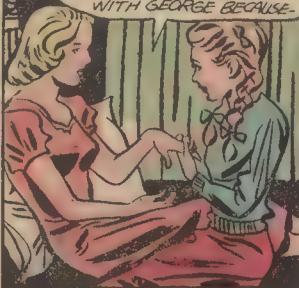
OH, BETH, YOU'RE WONDERFUL! I'M SO YOU SAVED ME! ASHAMED. CAN YOU FORGIVE ME? IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.



YOU SEE HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO DIS-TRUST ANYBODY UNLESS YOU HAVE REALLY PROVEN HER GUILTY?

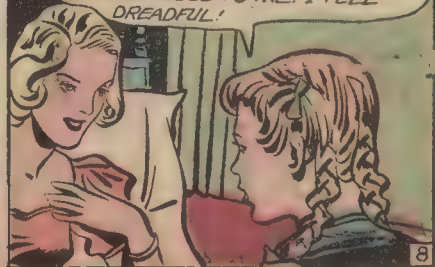


THAT NIGHT... OH, BETH, I FEEL SO DREADFUL—BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SO WONDERFUL TO ME I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU—I DID SOMETHING AWFUL! I TOLD LARRY YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH GEORGE BECAUSE—



BECAUSE YOU SAW HIM KISS ME THAT EVENING HE CAME HERE. GEORGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER TO ME—THAT NIGHT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT STELLA AND I WAS TRYING TO COMFORT HIM.

OH, BETH, IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I LOVED YOU—AND I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET MARRIED BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME AROUND ANYMORE. AND NOW, YOU'VE STOOD BY ME AND BEEN SO GOOD TO ME! I FEEL DREADFUL!

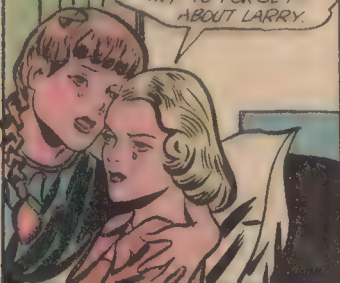




# MY SECRET STORY

OH, BETH, I DO LOVE YOU! AND I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I DID—TELLING LARRY ALL THAT

OF COURSE I FORGIVE YOU, PEGGY. YOU JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. WE'LL GO ON TOGETHER THE WAY WE ALWAYS HAVE—AND WE'LL TRY TO FORGET ABOUT LARRY.



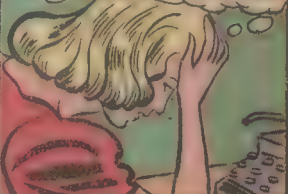
THE NEXT DAY WHO SHOULD WALK IN THE OFFICE BUT GEORGE WITH STELLA ON HIS ARM LOOKING HAPPIER THAN I HAD EVER SEEN THEM.

LOOK WHO'S GEORGE STELLA  
COME HOME—CERTAINLY GAVE  
TO STAY! I ME A SALE'S OFF, I'M  
TALK—I SEE NOW SO GLAD  
HOW HE PUTS ACROSS  
HIS BIG BUSINESS DEALS!



WHEN THEY LEFT I FELT VERY LEFT DOWN

WELL, MISS FIX-IT, YOU SEEM TO BE ABLE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THINGS FOR EVERY BODY BUT YOURSELF! OH, IF I COULD MAKE LARRY UNDERSTAND! BUT I CAN'T GO CHASING AFTER HIM—NOT AFTER HE CALLED ME A TWO-TIMER!



THAT NIGHT—

GEORGE BROUGHT STELLA BACK FROM FLORIDA TODAY—AND BET IT HAS STRAIGHTENED WAS ALL OUT EVERYTHING. ISN'T YOUR THAT WONDERFUL?

OH, I'M SO GLAD! I WAS ALL YOUR DOING,

BETH, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS STRAIGHTENS THINGS OUT FOR PEOPLE



AFTER DINNER I SETTLED DOWN FOR ANOTHER LONELY EVENING.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN FOR A WHILE, BETH? I HAVE TO RUN OVER TO JUDY'S FOR A MINUTE ABOUT AN ASSIGNMENT AND I'M EXPECTING ONE OF THE KIDS TO STOP BY WITH A BOOK FOR ME.

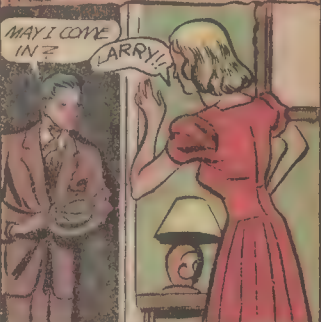
YES, I'LL BE HERE ALL EVENING, DEAR.



WHEN THE DOORBELL RANG, I WENT TO ANSWER IT EXPECTING TO SEE ONE OF PEGGY'S PALS—

MAY I COME IN?

LARRY!



BETH, I WAS A JEALOUS FOOL! I'VE BEEN ON THE VERGE OF COMING ROUND AND BEGGING YOU TO FORGIVE ME A DOZEN TIMES—ONLY I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU REALLY WERE FOND OF GEORGE. PEGGY CALLED ME TODAY AND TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY, YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, WON'T YOU, DARLING?

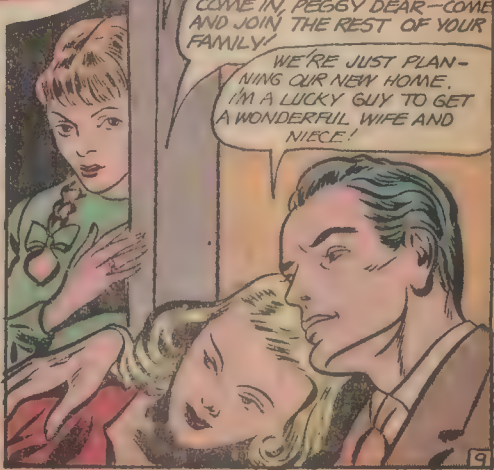
OF COURSE I WILL, LARRY!



HELLO, YOU TWO! AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU WERE IN TONIGHT, BETH?

COME IN, PEGGY DEAR—COME AND JOIN THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY.

WE'RE JUST PLANNING OUR NEW HOME. I'M A LUCKY GUY TO GET A WONDERFUL WIFE AND NIECE!







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